

TUITION FEES IN EUROPE 2007/2008

Two years ago, when this issue was first discussed in *CESifo DICE Report* (2005/2, 55–57), of the 27 selected countries (the then EU countries plus Norway and Switzerland) 15 had tuition fees. Now this number has increased to 18 out of 29 (present EU countries plus Norway and Switzerland). In the meantime Cyprus has eliminated tuition fees for Cypriots and EU citizens, but universities in some German federal states and in Luxembourg have introduced tuition fees. In the new member coun-

tries, Bulgaria and Romania are also charging tuition fees. As in the past there are no fees in the Scandinavian countries and for state universities in France, Ireland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Malta. In Slovenia there are no fees for undergraduate studies. Denmark (since August 2006), Ireland, Malta, Sweden, Slovakia and Cyprus charge tuition fees for foreign students. In the Czech Republic students taking courses held in English have to pay fees.

The regulations for tuition fees in Europe vary considerably. While students pay the same countrywide fee in Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria and Portugal, in Belgium, Switzerland, Greece and Italy

Tuition fees in Europe 2007/08

	Tuition fees	Remarks/exemptions
Austria	EUR 363 per semester for home students and citizens of the EU, the EEA ^{a)} and Switzerland (for foreigners: EUR 726 per semester). Higher fees for some private universities.	Grants are offered. Dependent on social factors. Students who qualify for public scholarship (Studienbeihilfe) also receive the grant. The grant only has to be paid back if the course of studies is not completed.
Belgium	EUR 500–800 p.a. (dependent on university and course of studies).	Flanders: Scholarships offered by government, scholarships and loans offered by universities. Walloon: Scholarships and low-interest loans are offered by government.
Bulgaria	Public universities: Every year the government sets a maximum number of students' places. A portion of them are allocated to the students who do not pay fees ("state quota"). For the remaining places tuition fees range between EUR 50–200 p.a. Foreigners: EUR 2,200–5,500 p.a. (depending on university and course of studies). Private universities set their own fees.	The government determines who and how many students will receive scholarships or student loans for public universities. The government does not offer student loans for private universities.
Cyprus	None (foreigners max. EUR 6,850).	
Czech Republic	None (for foreigners in courses in English USD 3,000–10,000 p.a.).	
Denmark	None (non-EU foreigners: EUR 9,000–16,000 p.a.)	
Estonia ^{b)}	EUR 420–1,200 per semester (non-EU foreigners: EUR 960–1,500 per semester).	A student loan of EUR 960 guaranteed by the government is offered.
Finland	None.	
France	Public universities: None. Private universities: Up to EUR 7,500 p.a.	Enrolment fees between EUR 150 and 420 p.a.
Germany	None in some Länder, in others between EUR 100 and 500 per semester.	In Länder with tuition fees a low-interest loan offered that is paid back after completion of the course of studies. Tuition fees have no effect on Bafög (federally funded scholarship).
Greece	Universities set the fees.	Grants offered.
Hungary	EUR 16–48 per month (foreigners pay more).	Students who are particularly gifted or particularly needy do not have to pay the fees.
Ireland	None (non-EU foreigners: Up to EUR 36,000 p.a.).	
Italy	Minimum EUR 750 p.a., universities set the fees.	Students who receive a public loan based on need or a performance-related scholarship are exempt from the fees.
Latvia	EUR 700–5,811 p.a. (foreigners pay EUR 750–5,000 p.a.).	Loans and scholarships are available.

(Table continued)

	Tuition fees	Remarks/exemptions
Lithuania	EUR 0–3,475 p.a. (foreigners: EUR 1,000–5,000 per semester).	Grants offered by the government.
Luxembourg	EUR 100 per semester.	
Malta	None (foreigners: EUR 1,250–1,500 per semester).	
Netherlands	EUR 1,538 p.a. (less for part-time students).	The payment of the fee is either at start of the academic year or in instalments during the year. Loan to pay for tuition fees is offered. Payments based on earnings after completion of studies.
Norway	None.	
Poland	Public universities: None. Private universities: EUR 4,000–10,000 p.a.	
Portugal	EUR 500 p.a. Private universities: EUR 150 per month.	
Romania	USD 350–650 p.a. for public and private universities. Foreigners: Depending on course of studies between USD 3,200 and 8,000 p.a.	Government scholarships for students with good academic performance and in cases of need.
Slovak Republic	None (foreigners without a scholarship from Slovakian government: USD 2,000–8,000 p.a.).	
Slovenia	Undergraduates: No. Graduates: Up to EUR 1,500 p.a.	Scholarships and grants available.
Spain	Public universities: Dependent on region and course of studies between EUR 550 and 900 p.a. Private universities: Up to EUR 6,000 p.a.	Fees are reduced for students from large families.
Sweden	None (fees for foreigners at some universities).	
Switzerland	EUR 1,230–2,900 p.a.	The universities set the fees. Some universities require fees of foreigners. The cantons set the requirements for grants.
United Kingdom	Public universities in England/Wales: Up to GBP 3,070 p.a. (Up to GDP 3,145 p.a. 2008/2009). Private universities and graduate programmes: Up to GBP 16,000 p.a. Scotland: No.	England/Wales: Universities set fees. The government initially pays the tuition fees for every student. After completing the course of studies and taking up work the graduate pays the fees back to the government (HMRC ^c). This is done only after earning an income of GBP 15,000 p.a. The amount paid monthly depends on the income of the graduate. Scotland: Tuition fees are paid by the Student Awards Agency. For Scottish students and EU-foreigners the fees are paid in full (depending on income) and in part (depending on income) in the other parts of the United Kingdom.
Russia	15% of students at public universities pay fees (those who are working towards a second degree or did not quite fulfil the entry requirements). The amount is geared to the market value of a program and the prestige of the institution rather than to the actual costs. Fees vary depending on university and course of studies between USD 2,500 and 8,000 p.a.	Government scholarships and student loans are available.
United States	Universities and colleges set the fees. These vary from USD 2,000 p.a. (community college) to over USD 37,000 p.a. (graduate programmes in Harvard). The average amount is between USD 12,000 and 16,000 p.a.	A broad range of loans and scholarships are available.

^{a)} EEA: European Economic Area (EU-25 and Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein). – ^{b)} Academic year 2001/2002.
^{c)} Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Sources: www.studieren-in-holland.de/index.php?idcat=25&idlang=1. – www.daad.de. – www.bmbwk.gv.at. – Department for Education and Skills. – Student Awards Agency of Scotland. – EBS, Estonian Business School (www.ebs.ee/index.php?id=3167). – Latvijas Universitate. – Schweizerische Rektorenkonferenz (CRUS) (www.crus.ch/navig/d/pulldown_frameset/studinfos_schweiz/). – Eurydice (www.eurydice.org). – www.educationireland.ie/html/why_ireland/main.htm. – www.harvard.edu. – www.studyindenmark.dk. – CIRIUS (www.ciriusonline.dk/). – www.study-in-romania.ro/annualbudg.htm. – www.college-contact.com/wissen/studienfuehrer/bulgarien.htm. – Education in Russia (www.russia.org.my/education/).

the universities set the fees themselves. In Spain the fees are regional and in some cases staggered according to subject. In Britain students in England and Wales are required to pay up to GBP 3,070 p.a. in tuition fees. Scottish students on the other hand can study free of charge – only if they study in Scotland, however. In Hungary the government has eliminated the regulation according to which it proscribed the number of students who were able to study a certain subject at a specific university without paying tuition fees. If there were more students who wanted to study this subject, they had to pay tuition fees that the universities set. As of 2006 all students are required to pay tuition fees. The fees are between EUR 16 and 48 per month.

Tuition fees in Europe are considerably lower than in the U.S. In the Netherlands, for example, fees amount to EUR 1,538 (2005: EUR 1,476) and for private universities in France around EUR 7,500 per year, the tuition fees in the U.S. average between USD 12,000 and 16,000 p.a. In Harvard graduate studies cost USD 37,000 p.a. The range in Europe is, however, also very large from just under EUR 200 per study year for some subjects in Hungary to more than GBP 16,000 (EUR 23,000) for graduate programmes at Britain's top universities, Oxford and Cambridge. A course of studies in the new EU member countries is not necessarily more reasonable than in the old. In Latvia tuition fees range from at least EUR 700 p.a. to a maximum of EUR 5,811 p.a., the highest in the new member states of the EU. The tuition fees for students who are not from EU member states are considerably higher than those for nationals and EU citizens. Thus in Austria twice the normal fee (EUR 363, the same amount as in 2005) must be paid (EUR 726) by non-EU foreigners. Ireland, which as of 1996 no longer charges tuition fees, requires non-EU students to pay up to EUR 36,000 p.a., the highest fees in Europe.

As a rule countries offer loans to help finance tuition fees, which are generally paid back after the course of studies has been completed. In the United Kingdom, for example, the graduate is required to pay back the loan once his/her income has reached a certain level. The Netherlands no longer provide scholarships for needy students. Instead all students can receive a student loan to pay for tuition fees (see the Table).

N.H.